

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE WEEK

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 2008 marks the 2nd Annual celebration of the international *Take a Child Outside* week, sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences; and

WHEREAS, *Take A Child Outside* week is a program designed to help break down obstacles that keep children from discovering the natural world, and to provide parents, teachers and other caregivers with resources and recreational activities for exploring local habitats; and

WHEREAS, our goal is to help children develop a better understanding and appreciation of the environment in which they live, a burgeoning enthusiasm for its exploration, and an increased scientific literacy through direct exposure to nature; and

WHEREAS, in a era when many children believe that computers are more important than nature, it is vital for parents to introduce their children to the outdoors as an essential component of their education; and

WHEREAS, stress reduction, better physical health, a deeper sense of spirit, greater creativity, a sense of play, and even a safer life, are the benefits which await a family when it invites nature into their children's lives; and

WHEREAS, the *Take a Child Outside* program supports the purpose of the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, enhancing the public's understanding and appreciation of the natural environment in ways that emphasize the biodiversity of North Carolina and the southeastern United States and relate the region to the natural world as a whole; and

WHEREAS, citizens may acquire more information regarding program activities, sharing their experiences and pledging to take a child outside, by visiting www.takeachildoutside.org;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 24-30, 2008, as "**TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE WEEK**" in North Carolina and urge all citizens to partake of this event in conjunction with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at Raleigh this tenth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.